

MEETING OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2014  
AT 1:30 P.M.  
42 BROADWAY, 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM  
NEW YORK, NY 10004

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PRESENT: President Gregory C. Soumas

Commissioners Jose Miguel Araujo, Julie Dent, Michael Rendino, Simon Shamoun, Frederic M. Umane

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director  
Dawn Sandow, Deputy Executive Director  
Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel  
Valerie Vazquez, Director, Communications & Public Affairs  
Nina M. Crispino, Director, Personnel  
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners  
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Monica Bartley, CIDNY  
Edward Cuesta  
Kate Doran, LWV  
Rushelle Sharpe, DOI  
Carolyn Sheehan, DOI  
David Seitzer, NYC Council  
Cathy Gray  
Katherine Loving, CFB  
John D. Smith  
Eric Friedman, CFB

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President Soumas called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

President Soumas announced that a quorum was not present yet.

President Soumas tabled the minutes of the February 4, 2014 meeting until a quorum was present.

Mr. Ryan reported that the New York City Council Committee on Governmental Operations and the Committee on Oversight and Investigations scheduled a Hearing on Friday, February 28, 2014 at 1:00 P.M. concerning the recent report of the Department of Investigations on the Board of Elections. The Board is invited to testify at the Hearing. A copy of the Hearing notice is in the agenda. Mr. Ryan requested for guidance from the Commissioners when a quorum is present.

Mr. Ryan reported on Intro. No. 132-A, a Local Law to amend the New York City Charter, in relation to requiring that all public meetings be webcast. A copy of the Intro is in the agenda. This Intro was signed into law by former Mayor Bloomberg on December 2, 2013 and it takes effect 90 days after its enactment. The Board would have to purchase all of the necessary equipment to implement webcasting. Mr. Ryan stated that he reviewed Article 7, Section 103, of the Public Officers Law, and it is his

opinion that Intro. No. 132-A applies to the Board. Commissioner Araujo inquired if there is any funding to implement webcasting. Mr. Ryan reported that there is no additional funding. Commissioner Umame stated that the topic of webcasting the public meetings was discussed in the past, and requested for staff to look into that file for additional information and costs. Mr. Ryan reported that staff is currently researching data for webcasting. He also directed staff to look into the possibility of video teleconferencing in each Borough Office to try to improve the efficiency of the Board. If there were any matters to be discussed in a meeting among Borough Office staff, they would not be required to travel to Manhattan's General Office which would save on travel resources. If teleconferencing is implemented, then the Board can take the next step for webcasting since the equipment would already be purchased. Mr. Ferguson has been researching preliminary data and costs for this implementation. According to the law, the webcasting implementation should be completed by March 2, 2014 or when practicable. President Soumas requested for a recommendation to be presented to the Commissioners at next Tuesday's meeting.

President Soumas noted that Commissioner Dent joined the meeting.

President Soumas moved to authorize Mr. Ryan to testify at the NYC Council Committee on Governmental Operations and the Committee on Oversight and Investigations Hearing on February 28, 2014. Commissioner Dent seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted. President Soumas recommended for Mr. Ryan to mention that the Board may need additional funding to implement webcasting.

Mr. Ryan reported that from time to time an oath has to be administered at the Board. He discussed Section 3-218 of the NYS Election Law. A copy of the law is in the agenda. The Commissioners, Mr. Richman and Mr. Savino have the authority to administer an oath at the Board. Mr. Ryan requested for the Director of Personnel to be authorized by the Commissioners to administer an oath as well. President Soumas opposed authorizing the Director of Personnel to administer an oath. No further action was taken.

Commissioner Araujo moved to adopt the minutes of the February 4, 2014 meeting. Commissioner Dent seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Commissioner Dent requested to discuss a Brooklyn personnel matter.

Commissioner Dent requested for an advancement of 44 hours from the Sick Leave Bank for Katherine Astudillo, a Voting Machine Technician in the Brooklyn Voting Machine facility, due to surgery. Ms. Astudillo has been employed for one (1) year at the Board and will pay back the advancement of 44 hours. This request complies with the City's Rules and Regulations. President Soumas seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Commissioner Dent moved to adjourn the meeting. President Soumas seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 1:30 P.M.